

SUCCESS

REGIONS 1 & 4, STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

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*Mike Kuhns
USU Extension*

"Working with Mike Kuhns, we've been able to respond to common urban forestry needs by using our individual agency strengths to offer citizens and tree care industry professionals the tools and educational opportunities they need to manage urban forests effectively."

*Meridith Perkins
UT Forestry, Fire, &
State Lands*

Utah Agencies Working to Increase Urban Tree Information

By working together—and with the help of State and Private Forestry funding—Utah Extension and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands can accomplish much more than they could alone, maximizing their positive contribution to Utah's valuable urban trees.

Meridith McAvoy Perkins—coordinator for Urban and Community Forestry with Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands—says a focus in her job is to be efficient; to capitalize on and use the specific skills and expertise of each of the entities across the State that are involved in urban forestry.

Meridith points to the growing partnership with Utah State University Extension as a good example. That partnership blends the Extension's experience and expertise in urban forestry and adult education, with technical forestry assistance and funding from her Department.

to offer citizens and tree care industry professionals the tools and educational opportunities they need to manage urban forests effectively," Meridith says.

Recently, the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, with funding from the US Forest Service's State and Private Forestry, supported the development of a mobile platform for USU Forestry Extension's "Tree Browser" website. The Utah-focused tree information on the Tree Browser site (www.treebrowser.org), available since 2008, can now readily travel along with individuals or tree care professionals via their Smartphone or other handheld devices when they head to garden centers and nurseries in search of the perfect tree for their home or client.

Mike Kuhns says the Tree Browser is a tree selecting tool that provides photos and a wealth of practical and easy to understand information about potential tree species to plant in Utah; information such as species tolerance for shade, drought, or poor drainage. Part of Mike's objective for the Tree Browser is to help promote urban tree diversity.



"Working with Mike Kuhns, USU Forestry Extension specialist, we've been able to respond to common urban forestry needs by using our individual agency strengths

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TreeBrowser



Utah State University
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Linden, Silver *Tilia tomentosa*

General

Family:	Tiliaceae - Linden
Cultivar Availability:	Yes
Hardiness Zone:	4 - 7
Tree Type:	Broadleaf
Utah Native:	No

Growth

Growth Rate:	Medium
Mature Height:	High
Longevity:	Medium
OK Under	No
Powerlines:	No
Crown Shape:	Pyramidal

Leaves: Alternate; simple; more evenly heart-shaped; 2" to 5" long and almost as wide; deciduous; coarsely doubly serrate margin; pointed tip; dark green and glabrous to slightly pubescent above; covered with dense silver-white pubescence beneath; petiole thin and hairy, 1" to 1-1/2" long; yellow fall color.

Twigs/buds: Twigs usually zigzag; densely pubescent. No terminal bud; lateral buds partially covered with soft hairs, otherwise dark red-brown or green, about 1/4" long, rounded, usually with two visible scales.

Mike notes, "There are so many more good, useful, and attractive tree species than what people are commonly growing right now. Hopefully, through this mobile technology, we can increase the awareness of new cultivars suited to our growing conditions or of species frequently grown in the past, that are still good choices to plant, but are now mostly forgotten."

Mike cites the silver linden tree as an example: "Although most lindens are generally not very drought tolerant, silver linden is a more drought hardy species. While it's not currently a tree that is commonly planted in Utah, it's a good option that should be considered in many places across the State."

In another program to improve knowledge of Utah's urban trees, Mike is working with Meridith and the Utah Community Forest Council to host tree identification and biology walking tours tailored for

professionals in the forestry and tree care industry, including arborists and city foresters. The first tour was held on the University of Utah campus and covered tree taxonomy, identification, and biology, as well as tree injuries and wounds. The information covered in tours helps to increase participants' tree knowledge and can help them as they try to become certified arborists. Mike has found there is a positive, multiplier effect when he trains and works with tree care professionals. Each professional Mike reaches then works with many more clients and customers than he could individually teach.

Urban demonstration forests in Utah have also benefited from contributions of expertise and funding from USU Forestry Extension and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. A grant to the Utah Botanical Center in Kaysville helped support tree planting and educational signs at the center. Mike says not only

is it important to get people interested in trees and familiar with appropriate tree species to plant, it's also important to have places for people to go in person to see the trees they may be considering using.

Meridith Perkins says the vision for demonstration forests is a bit different than a typical arboretum that focuses on showcasing specimen trees. Rather, those involved also wanted the urban demonstration forest to give interested folks the opportunity to see in person how to use less familiar species in a landscaped environment to provide ideas for addressing some of the common needs or interests for urban forests, such as saving energy by strategic plantings around homes or appropriate species to plant near utility lines.

A second demonstration forest is in the planning stages in the southern part of the State, in Cedar City.